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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY (PENZANCE DIVISION)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st. 1939.



Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1939 as follows:-

Schedule I. Amount of Shipping entering your Ports for the year 1939

The amount of Shipping entering your Ports within the jurisdiction of your Authority which comprises Penzance Harbour and Docks, Newlyn Harbour, Mousehole Harbour and the Harbour of St. Michael's Mount, during the year 1939 was as follows:-
Foreign steamships 6, with a tonnage of 2,949; Foreign Motor Vessels 21 with a tonnage of 4,708; Foreign (Sailing) Fishing Ships 420, with a tonnage of 11,475. Of these 21 were inspected by your Medical Officer of Health and 16 by your Sanitary Inspector. The Foreign Shipping inspected was found to be in a satisfactory clean and sanitary condition and no orders had to be made in respect to it.

The amount of coastwise shipping entering your Ports was as follows:- British Steamers 569, with a tonnage of 116,713; British Motor Vessels 151, with a tonnage of 27,294; British Sailing Ships with a tonnage of ; British Fishing Craft 126 with a tonnage of 3,240. The Coastwise Shipping was found to be in a satisfactory, clean and sanitary condition and no orders had to be made in respect to it. Coastwise Shipping inspected comprised 37 by your Medical Officer of Health, 80 by your Sanitary Inspector.

Schedule II. Character of the Trade of the Port

(a) Passenger Traffic - This is comprised of Passenger Traffic to and from the Isles of Scilly. During the year 1939 the number of Passengers carried was as follows:- Inwards 7,750; Outwards 7,900.

(b) Cargo Traffic - This comprises mainly coastwise traffic of general cargoes and the shipment of general cargoes to and from the Isles of Scilly.

Exports from Penzance are chiefly Coal (bunker); China Clay to Runcorn, Cardiff and Newcastle, and general goods to the Isles of Scilly.

Exports from Newlyn are chiefly Shell Fish to Brittany and Ostend, Pilchards to Italy, and Stone to Home and Foreign Ports.

Imports at Penzance are chiefly Coal, Cement, Timber, Artificial Manures and General Goods from Home and Foreign Ports, and Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables from the Isles of Scilly.

Imports at Newlyn and Mousehole are chiefly Coal from Home and Foreign Ports.

There is an active Fishing Industry carried on in the Ports of Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole.

Schedule III. Source of Water Supply

The source of the Water Supply for the Port of Penzance is the main Water Supply of the Town. At Newlyn, Water is obtained from the source belonging to the Newlyn Harbour Commissioners. The Water Supply for the Harbour at St. Michael's Mount is obtained from the West Penwith Rural District Council. No Water Boats are kept in any of your Ports.

Schedule IV. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933

1. Declarations of Health are collected from the Masters of Foreign-going ships arriving from Foreign Ports by the Officers of H.M. Customs and Excise and are forwarded by them via the office of the Port Sanitary Authority to the Port Medical Officer of Health.
2. All vessels are boarded on arrival in Mount's Bay by the Officers of H.M. Customs and Excise.
3. Arrangements for the notification to the Port Medical Officer of Health of inward vessels requiring special medical attention have been made with the Wireless Station at Land's End, The Customs Authorities at Penzance, Newlyn and Mousehole, and the various shipping agents in Penzance and Newlyn. Such vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health or the Deputy Medical Officer of Health in Mount's Bay.
4. (a) Special anchorage for Ships in quarantine for minor infections have been allocated in Penzance and Newlyn Harbours.
(b) There is a special anchorage in Gwavas Pool, off Newlyn, for Ships in quarantine for major infectious diseases.
5. Standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14 - Nil.
6. Experience of Working of Article 16 - Nil.
7. (a) Nil. (b) Nil. (c) Nil.
(d) The Authority has made satisfactory arrangements for the accommodation of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and other infectious diseases at the Isolation Hospital of the Borough of Penzance.
(e) Special Motor Ambulance Transport is available for such cases.
(f) There is no special accommodation available for the supervision of contacts.
8. The Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations of Rats for Plague would be carried out by the Pathologist to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.
9. Any other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations required would be carried out by the Pathologist to the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.
10. Any suspected case of Venereal Disease among Sailors is seen and treated by the Port Medical Officer of Health. The nearest V.D. Clinic is at Tuckingmill - 17 miles away.
11. Cases of illness of a non-infectious nature, or of accident are removed by Motor Ambulance Transport to the West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance.

Schedule V. Measures against Rodents

The Docks and Sheds adjoining are remarkably free from Rats. This freedom from Rats is mainly attributable to the fact that comparatively little Food-stuff is landed here, and that such as is landed is removed from the Docks at once and is not stored for any length of time in the Sheds. The greater part of the Shipping using your Ports carries Cargo not likely to attract Rats, viz:- Coal, Cement, China Clay and Stone. There have been no complaints about Rats from any Ships using the Ports during the past year.

Schedule VI. Hygiene of Crew's Spaces

Owing to the fact that the greater part of the Shipping using your Ports is Coastwise, and therefore liable to frequent inspections, the number of nuisances in connection with the Hygiene of Crew's Quarters has been found to be very small. The Shipping inspected has been found to be generally in a satisfactory, clean and sanitary condition and no orders have had to be made in connection with either cleanliness or structural defects of Crew's Quarters.

Schedule VII. Food Inspection

1. Articles of Food, chiefly Flour, Fruit and Fish have been periodically inspected and found to be of satisfactory quality. No action has had to be taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations of 1925, the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations of 1933, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations of 1926 or the Public Health (Preservative in Food) Regulations 1925 to 1927.

2. There are no Oyster Beds or Shell-Fish Layings within the jurisdiction of your Ports. Shell Fish (Crabs, Lobsters and Crayfish) landed from British and Foreign fishing craft in your Ports are kept alive in stone pots in Newlyn Harbour and marketed. The length of time that these fish are kept in the stone pots never exceeds 48 hours and is usually less than 24 hours. The greater part of the Shell-Fish caught is marketed in France. A negligible quantity is marketed locally.

3. No samples of food examined in 1939 were sent away for Bacteriological or Analytical Examination.

I append Tables A to J as required by the Ministry of Health.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. S. SCOTT.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX

Table A. Amount of Shipping entering the Port in 1939

	Number	Registered Tonnage.	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the M.O.	By the Sanitary Inspector.			
FOREIGN -							
Steamers	6	2,949	2	2	N11	N11	N11
Motor	21	4,708	7	9	N11	N11	N11
Sailing	-	-	-	-			
Fishing	420	11,475	12	5	N11	N11	N11
Total Foreign	447	19,132	21	16	N11	N11	N11
COASTWISE -							
Steamers	569	116,713	12	50	N11	N11	N11
Motor	151	27,294	4	11	N11	N11	N11
Sailing	-	-	-	-	N11	N11	N11
Fishing	126	3,240	21	19	N11	N11	N11
Total Coastwise	846	147,247	37	80	N11	N11	N11
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1,293	166,379	58	96			

Table B. Passenger Traffic during 1939

Number of Passengers - Inwards (all one class)	7,750
Number of Passengers - Outwards (all one Class)	7,900
Transmigrants	Nil

Table C. Cases of Infectious Disease landed from Shipping in 1939.

Number of Cases in 1939 -

Diseases	Nil
Passengers	Nil
Crew	Nil
Number of Vessels concerned	Nil
Average number of Cases for the previous 5 years	Nil

Table D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage,
but disposed of prior to arrival

Number of Cases in 1939 -

Diseases	Nil
Passengers	Nil
Crew	Nil
Number of Vessels concerned	Nil
Average number of Cases for the previous 5 years	Nil

Table E. Rats destroyed on Vessels during 1939

Nil

Table F. Rats destroyed in Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses

Nil

Table G.

No Plague-infected, or suspected Vessel arrived in the Port during 1939.

Tables H. and I

Nil returns.

TABLE J. Classification of Nuisances

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during the year	Defects of Original Construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British	846	117	N11	N11
Other Nations	447	37	N11	N11

